



# *Fact Sheet*

**From the Office of Public Information & Communications**

**Topic/Issue:**

**City of Mesa and Pinal County land**

**General Statement:**

The City of Mesa purchased approximately 11,000 acres of undeveloped farmland in Pinal County in 1984 for \$30 million, using enterprise fund bonds in an effort to secure water rights for Mesa's future growth. The land is located south and east of Coolidge along the Arizona Highway 87 corridor. Since purchasing the land, Mesa has received adequate water supplies from other sources. As a result, the Pinal County land is no longer needed. The City is exploring the idea of selling the land in an orderly market-driven fashion over the next 25 years. This includes a potential sale to help finance the new Chicago Cubs spring training facilities.

**Facts:**

- Mesa City Council has decided that any sale of City-owned property will only be used to provide long term benefits to the citizens of Mesa. Sale of such property for a Chicago Cubs spring training stadium or for other uses would only occur in an orderly market-driven fashion over the next 25 years. The land will not be subject to a "fire sale" to cover operating expenses. It would be fiscally irresponsible to use capital assets to cover one-time operating deficits.
- Since purchasing the Pinal County land in 1984, the City of Mesa has received adequate water supplies from other sources to satisfy its projected future needs. Therefore, the Pinal County land is no longer needed.
- The City paid the bonds on the land in full by December, 2007. There is no outstanding debt on the property. As a result, there are no restrictions on the use of the land, including sale.
- The City paid \$30 million for the land, using enterprise fund bonds. The land is believed to be worth in excess of \$100 million.
- The City has already been working with Pinal County over the last several years on the eventual sale of this land to maximize the value for both the City of Mesa and Pinal County.

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